

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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P R 141333 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3995

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SCUL, CZ

SUBJ: LESLIE FIEDLER PROGRAM

REF: STATE 4 5681

1. FIEDLER LECTURE CHARLES UNIVERSITY WAS DEPENDENT UPON TIMELY CANCELLATION OF APPEARANCE STAG GRANTEE ROSENTHAL. CZECH MINED WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER APPLICATION FOR THIRD (FIEDLER) AMERICAN LECTURER AT PHILOSOPHY FACULTY THIS SEMESTER. ERSKIN CALDWELL LECTURED THERE JANUARY 22. ROSENTHAL'S APRIL LECTURE WAS AGREED UPON PRIOR TO RECEIPT HERE OF INFORMAL OFFER FIEDLER LECTURE FROM BUCHAREST.

2. ALTHOUGH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FIEDLER APPEARANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOMED, ABSENCE DID NOT PRECLUDE LECTURE. BUCHAREST CONCEPT FIEDLER TOUR WAS NOT CONFIRMED UNTIL FEBRUARY 23 (BUCHAREST 664).

3. AFTER DEPARTMENT REPORTED, FEBRUARY 23 (STATE 33185), ONLY POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE INTERESTED IN ROSENTHAL AND TOUR MIGHT BE CANCELLED, EARLY DECISION WAS SOUGHT, FEBRUARY 26 (PRAGUE 371), IN HOPE THAT DEFINITE CANCELLATION WOULD FACILITATE CZECH MINED APPROVAL FIEDLER.

4. DECISION TO RETAIN AGREED- UPON ROSENTHAL LECTURE, UNLESS/
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UNTIL CANCELLED FOR LACK OF THIRD COUNTRY APPEARANCE, REFLECTED OUR PESSIMISM AS TO WILLINGNESS CZECH MINED PROCESS FIEDLER LECTURE IN RAPIDLY DIMINISHING TIME PRIOR TO PROPOSED LECTURE DATE. IN ADDITION, WE DID NOT WISH TO UNDO POLISH PLANS FOR ROSENTHAL ON BASIS POSSIBLE APPROVAL FIEDLER LECTURE.

5. GIVEN CANCELLATION OF ROSENTHAL, EVEN AS LATE AS FEBRUARY 28 (TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO PROPOSED FIEDLER ARRIVAL), FIEDLER LECTURE COULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN PRESERVED. TIMING OF ROSENTHAL CANCELLATION (STATE 10014) EFFECTIVELY CANCELLED FIEDLER AS WELL.

6. DESPITE THIS, WE PURSUED POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGING DATES WITH BUCHAREST, GAINING AN ADDITIONAL WEEK FOR MINED AND UNIVERSITY REKTORAT PROCESSING OF FIEDLER APPEARANCE. MINED HAD AGREED, MARCH 7, TO CONSIDER FIEDLER, IF HIS LECTURE COULD BE DELAYED UNTIL ON OR AFTER MARCH 24, AND THE POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT THIS AGREEMENT COULD HAVE BEEN BROADENED TO ALLOW LECTURE AS EARLY AS MARCH 21. WHEN BUCHAREST REPORTED INABILITY EXCHANGE DATES, MARCH 8, LAST REMOTE POSSIBILITY FOR PRAGUE LECTURE ENDED.

7. REGRET FRUSTRATING LOSS THIS EXCELLENT LECTURER. RATNER AND EMBASSY REMAIN HAPPY RECEIVE FIEDLER EN ROUTE TO BUCHAREST, BUT MINED WILL NOT NOW APPROVE ANY LECTURE DURING PERIOD FIEDLER WILL BE AVAILABLE. NO WORTHWHILE PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES EXIST OUTSIDE FACULTY SPONSORSHIP. DECON 3/ 12/74.
SHERER

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